



## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Occupational Safety and Health Administration

[Docket No. OSHA-2011-0125]

#### **On-Site Consultation Agreements; Extension of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Approval of Information Collection (Paperwork) Requirements**

**AGENCY:** Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Labor.

**ACTION:** Request for public comments.

**SUMMARY:** OSHA solicits public comments concerning the proposal to extend the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval of the information collection requirements contained in the regulations addressing On-Site Consultation Agreements.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted (postmarked, sent, or received) by [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

#### **ADDRESSES:**

*Electronically:* You may submit comments and attachments electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, which is the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Follow the instructions online for submitting comments.

*Docket:* To read or download comments or other material in the docket, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Documents in the docket are listed in the <http://www.regulations.gov> index; however, some information (e.g., copyrighted material) is not publicly available to read or download through the website. All submissions, including copyrighted material, are available for inspection through the OSHA Docket Office. Contact the OSHA Docket Office at (202) 693-2350, (TTY (877) 889-5627) for assistance in locating docket submissions.

*Instructions:* All submissions must include the agency name and the OSHA docket number for this *Federal Register* notice (OSHA-2011-0125). OSHA will place

comments and requests to speak, including personal information, in the public docket, which may be available online. Therefore, OSHA cautions interested parties about submitting personal information such as Social Security numbers and birthdates. For further information on submitting comments, see the “Public Participation” heading in the section of this notice titled **“SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.”**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Patrick Showalter, Director, Office of Small Business Assistance, Directorate of Cooperative and State Programs, OSHA, U.S. Department of Labor, telephone (202) 693-2220.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Background**

The Department of Labor, as part of the continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent (i.e., employer) burden, conducts a preclearance process to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on proposed and continuing information collection requirements in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This program ensures that information is in the desired format, reporting burden (time and costs) is minimal, collection instruments are clearly understood, and OSHA’s estimate of the information collection burden is accurate. The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSH Act) (29 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) authorizes information collection by employers as necessary or appropriate for enforcement of the OSH Act or for developing information regarding the causes and prevention of occupational injuries, illnesses, and accidents (29 U.S.C. 657). The OSH Act also requires OSHA to obtain such information with minimum burden upon employers, especially those operating small businesses, and to reduce to the maximum extent feasible unnecessary duplication of efforts in obtaining information (29 U.S.C. 657).

Section 7(c)(1) of the OSH Act authorizes the Secretary of Labor (Secretary) to, "with the consent of any State or political subdivision thereof, accept and use the services, facilities, and personnel of any agency of such State or subdivision with reimbursement." Section 21(c) of the OSH Act authorizes the Secretary to "consult with and advise employers and employees . . . as to effective means of preventing occupational illnesses and injuries."

Additionally, Section 21(d) of the OSH Act instructs the Secretary to "establish and support cooperative agreements with the States under which employers subject to the Act may consult with State personnel with respect to the application of occupational safety and health requirements under the Act or under State plans approved under section 18 of the Act." This gives the Secretary authority to enter into agreements with the States to provide On-Site Consultation services, and establish rules under which employers may qualify for an inspection exemption. To satisfy the intent of these and other sections of the OSH Act, OSHA codified the terms that govern cooperative agreements between OSHA and State governments whereby State agencies provide On-Site Consultation services to private employers to assist them in complying with the requirements of the OSH Act. The terms were codified as the Consultation Agreement regulations (29 CFR part 1908).

The On-Site Consultation Agreement regulations specify services to be provided, and practices and procedures to be followed by the State On-Site Consultation Agreement Programs. Information collection requirements set forth in the On-Site Consultation Agreement regulations are in two categories: State Responsibilities and Employer Responsibilities. Eight regulatory provisions require information collection activities by the State. The Federal government provides 90 percent of the funds for On-Site Consultation services delivered by the States, which result in the information

collection. Four requirements apply to employers and specify conditions for receiving the free consultation services.

## **II. Special Issues for Comment**

OSHA has a particular interest in comments on the following issues:

- Whether the proposed information collection requirements are necessary for the proper performance of the agency's functions, including whether the information is useful;
- The accuracy of OSHA's estimate of the burden (time and costs) of the information collection requirements, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- The quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and
- Ways to minimize the burden on employers who must comply—for example, by using automated or other technological information collection and transmission techniques.

## **III. Proposed Actions**

OSHA is requesting an extension of the current approval of the collection of information requirements for the regulation. The agency is requesting an adjustment increase of 8,745 burden hours (from 214,750 to 223,495 hours). This increase is primarily due to adding Puerto Rico Consultation to the OSHA 21(d) Program. Prior to 2018, Puerto Rico Consultation had operated under OSHA State Plans, under the governance of section 23(g) of the OSHA Act.

In addition, the agency requests OMB approval to update the Safety and Health Program Assessment Worksheet, OSHA Form 33, to include minor edits.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Title:* On-Site Consultation Agreements (29 CFR part 1908).

*OMB Control  
Number:* 1218-0110.

<i>Affected Public:</i>	Business or other for-profits.
<i>Number of Respondents:</i>	22,896 (53 State Consultation Programs and 22,843 Employers).
<i>Frequency:</i>	Initial, annual, quarterly, periodic.
<i>Average Time Per Response:</i>	Varies.
<i>Estimated Number of Responses:</i>	94,838.
<i>Estimated Total Burden Hours:</i>	223,495.
<i>Estimated Cost (Operation and Maintenance):</i>	\$0.

#### **IV. Public Participation — Submission of Comments on this Notice and Internet**

##### **Access to Comments and Submissions**

You may submit comments in response to this document as follows: (1) electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, which is the Federal eRulemaking Portal; (2) by facsimile (fax); or (3) by hard copy. **Please note:** While OSHA’s Docket Office is continuing to accept and process submissions by hand, express mail, messenger, and courier service. All comments, attachments, and other material must identify the agency name and the OSHA docket number for the ICR (Docket No. OSHA-2011-0125) for the ICR. You may supplement electronic submissions by uploading document files electronically. If you wish to mail additional materials in reference to an electronic or facsimile submission, you must submit them to the OSHA Docket Office (see the section of this notice titled “**ADDRESSES**”). The additional materials must clearly identify your electronic comments by your name, date, and the docket number so that the agency can attach them to your comments.

Because of security procedures, the use of regular mail may cause a significant delay in the receipt of comments. For information about security procedures concerning

the delivery of materials by hand, express delivery, messenger or courier service, please contact the OSHA Docket Office at (202) 693-2350, (TTY (877) 889-5627)).

Comments and submissions are posted without change at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Therefore, OSHA cautions commenters about submitting personal information such as social security numbers and dates of birth. Although all submissions are listed in the <http://www.regulations.gov> index, some information (e.g., copyrighted material) is not publicly available to read or download through this website. All submissions, including copyrighted material, are available for inspection and copying at the OSHA Docket Office. Information on using the <http://www.regulations.gov> website to submit comments and access the docket is available at the website's "User Tips" link. Contact the OSHA Docket Office for information about materials not available through the website, and for assistance in using the Internet to locate docket submissions.

## **V. Authority and Signature**

James S. Frederick, Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, directed the preparation of this notice. The authority for this notice is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506 et seq.) and Secretary of Labor's Order No. 1-2012 (77 FR 3912).

Signed at Washington, DC, on October 13, 2021.

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**James S. Frederick,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health.*

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